

REMARKS

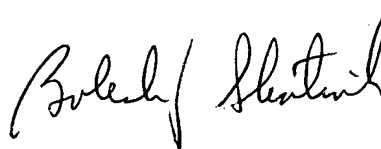
Figure 4 has been corrected as described above.

In the course of correcting the drawings, it was noted that a reference number was inadvertently omitted from the description of **figure 4** in the specification. As described in the specification, evanescent decouplers (shown in figure 4 and labeled **405**) act to leak radiation from fibers **404** into soil **412** and to nearby seedlings **410**. This is clearly shown in figure 4. The amendment described herein corrects the description of figure 4 so that all numbered parts of figure 4 are properly described, as was initially intended.

Also, the description of **figure 3a** has been amended to remove an incorrect reference to figure 3a. The number "310" is not used in figure 3a, and the incorrect reference to animals as being represented by 310 has been removed.

With these changes, it is believed that the disclosure is in condition for examination. Inclusion of the above changes and replacement of the specification and claims with those submitted herein is respectfully requested. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,



Bolesh J. Skutnik, PhD, JD
Reg. No. 36,347
Attorney for Applicants

Fax: (413) 525-0611

Dated: December 9, 2003

CeramOptec Industries, Inc.
515 Shaker Road
East Longmeadow, MA 01028
Phone: (413) 525-8222